



**DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**

**[OMB Control No. 0503-XXXX]**

**Information Collection; Improving Customer Experience (OMB Circular A-11, Section 280 Implementation)**

**AGENCY:** Department of Agriculture.

**ACTION:** Notice and request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** As part of the Administration's commitment to improving customer service delivery, the Department of Agriculture, has under OMB review the following proposed Information Collection Request "Improving Customer Experience (OMB Circular A-11, Section 280 Implementation)" for approval under the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA).

**DATES:** Submit comments on or before: **[INSERT DATE 30 DAYS AFTER DATE OF PUBLICATION IN THE FEDERAL REGISTER]** .

**ADDRESSES:** Submit comments identified by Information Collection 0503-XXXX, Improving Customer Experience (OMB Circular A-11, Section 280 Implementation), by any of the following methods:

- *Federal eRulemaking portal:*

<https://www.regulations.gov>. Follow the instructions for submitting comments. Comments submitted electronically, including attachments to <https://www.regulations.gov>, will be posted to the docket unchanged.

- *Mail:* Departmental Clearance Office, USDA, OCIO, Mail Stop 7602, Washington, D.C. 20250-7602, Improving Customer Experience (OMB Circular A-11, Section 280 Implementation).

*Instructions:* Please submit comments only and cite Information Collection 0503-XXXX, Improving Customer Experience (OMB Circular A-11, Section 280 Implementation) in all correspondence related to this collection. To confirm receipt of your comment(s), please check *regulations.gov*, approximately two-to-three business days after submission to verify posting (except allow 30 days for posting of comments submitted by mail).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Requests for additional information should be directed to Ruth Brown, Office of the Chief Information Officer, Information Resources Management Center, 1200 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250 or via email to: USDA.PRA@USDA.gov.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

*Title:* Improving Customer Experience (OMB Circular A-11, Section 280 Implementation)

*Abstract:* A modern, streamlined and responsive customer experience means: raising government-wide customer experience to the average of the private sector service

industry; developing indicators for high-impact Federal programs to monitor progress towards excellent customer experience and mature digital services; and providing the structure (including increasing transparency) and resources to ensure customer experience is a focal point for agency leadership.

This proposed information collection activity provides a means to garner customer and stakeholder feedback in an efficient, timely manner in accordance with the Administration's commitment to improving customer service delivery as discussed in Section 280 of OMB Circular A-11 at <https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/s280.pdf>.

As discussed in OMB guidance, agencies should identify their highest-impact customer journeys (using customer volume, annual program cost, and/or knowledge of customer priority as weighting factors) and select touchpoints/transactions within those journeys to collect feedback.

These results will be used to improve the delivery of Federal services and programs. It will also provide government-wide data on customer experience that can be displayed on [www.performance.gov](http://www.performance.gov) to help build transparency

and accountability of Federal programs to the customers they serve.

As a general matter, these information collections will not result in any new system of records containing privacy information and will not ask questions of a sensitive nature, such as sexual behavior and attitudes, religious beliefs, and other matters that are commonly considered private.

Department of Agriculture will only submit collections if they meet the following criteria.

- The collections are voluntary;
- The collections are low-burden for respondents (based on considerations of total burden hours or burden-hours per respondent) and are low-cost for both the respondents and the Federal Government;
- The collections are non-controversial and do not raise issues of concern to other Federal agencies;
- Any collection is targeted to the solicitation of opinions from respondents who have experience with the program or may have experience with the program in the near future;
- Personally identifiable information (PII) is collected only to the extent necessary and is not retained;
- Information gathered is intended to be used for general service improvement and program management purposes
- Upon agreement between OMB and the agency all or a subset of information may be released as part of A-11, Section 280 requirements only on performance.gov. Summaries of customer research and user testing activities may be included in public-facing customer journey maps.
- Additional release of data must be done coordinated with OMB.

These collections will allow for ongoing, collaborative and actionable communications between the Agency, its customers and stakeholders, and OMB as it monitors agency compliance on Section 280. These responses will inform efforts to improve or maintain the quality of service offered to the public. If this information is not collected, vital feedback from customers and stakeholders on services will be unavailable.

*Current Action:* New Collection of Information.

*Type of Review:* New.

*Affected Public:* Individuals and Households, Businesses and Organizations, State, Local or Tribal Government.

*Estimated Number of Respondents:* Below is a preliminary estimate of the aggregate burden hours for this new collection. Department of Agriculture will provide refined estimates of burden in subsequent notices.

*Average Expected Annual Number of Activities:* Approximately 2,040,000 customer experience activities such as feedback surveys, focus groups, user testing, and interviews.

*Average Number of Respondents per Activity:* 1 response per respondent per activity.

*Annual Responses:* 2,040,000.

*Average Minutes per Response:* 2 minutes - 120 minutes, dependent upon activity.

*Burden Hours:* Department of Agriculture requests approximately 240,000 burden hours.

*Request for Comments:* Comments submitted in response to this notice will be summarized and/or included in the request for OMB approval. Comments are invited on: (a) Whether the collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information shall have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the collection of information; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology; and (e) estimates of capital or start-up costs and costs of operation, maintenance, and purchase of services to provide information.

Burden means the total time, effort, or financial resources expended by persons to generate, maintain, retain, disclose or provide information to or for a Federal agency. This includes the time needed to review instructions; to develop, acquire, install and utilize technology and systems for the purpose of collecting, validating and

verifying information, processing and maintaining information, and disclosing and providing information; to train personnel and to be able to respond to a collection of information, to search data sources, to complete and review the collection of information; and to transmit or otherwise disclose the information.

All written comments will be available for public inspection Regulations.gov.

An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid Office of Management and Budget control number.

Dated: January 27, 2020.

**Ruth Brown,**

*Departmental Information Collection Clearance Officer.*

**Billing Code:** 3410-KR

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